

DECORATIVE GLOBES

Background of the Invention

5 1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to decorative globes.

10 2. Description of Prior Art

Decorative globes, typically for standing on a work top
or a casual table, are already known. Such globes
often incorporate a light that illuminates the globe
from inside so that a patterned or colored lamp is
provided for general illumination. The globe may carry
15 simply wording, advertising slogans, trade marks and
the like. The light may also be arranged to flash or be
arranged to turn OFF automatically during daylight
hours so the globe could be used as for a traffic
20 signal, at a pedestrian crossing say. Whilst many such
known globes can have utilitarian functions, the globes
are typically aesthetically or strikingly colored and
are in any event referred to herein as "decorative
globes".

25 It has so far not been proposed to provide globes have
moving patterns, or signs, that could also be
utilitarian and even educational.

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Summary of the Invention

5 It is an object of this invention to overcome this problem.

10 According to the invention there is provided an illuminated decorative globe having an outer translucent cover forming an enclosure for an inner globe carrying an image on its surface, a rotatably mounting supporting the inner globe and an electric light bulb inside the inner globe, and an electric motor coupled to rotate the mounting such that the image is projected onto an inner surface of the outer cover and is visible from outside the outer cover.

15 The outer cover and inner globe may both be spherical.

20 The outer cover preferably has an aperture in its base through which the inner globe may pass during assembly of the decorative globe.

25 The image may be a map of the world or a part of the world.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A decorative illuminated globe according the invention

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will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of the globe;

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Figure 2 is a schematic view of the globe; and

Figure 3 is an isometric view of an inner part of the globe.

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Description of the Preferred Embodiments

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Referring to the drawings, in Figure 1 a spherical outer translucent cover 10 forms an enclosure for a spherical inner globe 11. An outer surface of the globe carries an image 12 of a World map (partially shown in Figure 2). The inner globe is supported by a rotatable frame 13 and held in position by a screw 14. A light bulb 15 is also supported by the frame 13 at the centre of the inner globe. An electric motor 16 is coupled by gears 17 to the frame 13 and arranged to rotate the inner globe 11 when the motor is turned ON. As a result the image of the World map is projected onto an inner surface of the outer cover 10 for viewing from outside the outer cover 10, as will be clear from Figure 2.

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The outer cover and the inner globe are both spherical in the described embodiment which is preferable when the

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image is a representation of a specific 'picture', such as a map. Even so, other shapes of covers and globes may be used; other shapes may be aesthetically preferred where the projected image is simply a colored pattern, for example.

In Figure 3, the outer cover 10 has been removed to allow the inner globe to be changed or cleaned. The globe may be lifted off the frame 13 for servicing or changing the light bulb. Importantly, it will be noted that the outer cover has a lower aperture 18 (see Figure 1) to allow easy removal of the cover; the cover being simply supported on a stand 19. The stand has three evenly distributed feet 20, only two of which are visible in the Figures.

Thus, in normal use the image 12 is projected to sweep around the outer cover 10 and overall the decorative globe may be used for some general illumination at the same time. The outer cover 10 may carry vertical marking ("longitudinal lines") and the inner globe arranged to rotate completely every twenty-four hours so that the described globe can provide a 'world' time piece.